

From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Jennifer Willoughby](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update – New COVID-19 Ontario Regulations, Ontario Gas Tax for Transit Allocations, Ontario Heritage Act Amendments Update, Firefighter Training Changes
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:30:27 PM

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AMO Policy Update



January 14, 2021

AMO Policy Update – New COVID-19 Ontario Regulations, Ontario Gas Tax for Transit Allocations, Ontario Heritage Act Amendments Update, and Firefighter Training Changes

New COVID-19 Ontario Regulations under ROA and EMCPA

[Ontario regulation 10/21](#) under *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*

Amending O. Reg. 82/20 RULES FOR AREAS IN STAGE 1 Filed: January 13, 2021

[Ontario regulation 11/21](#) under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*
O. Reg. 11/21 STAY-AT-HOME ORDER Filed: January 13, 2021

[Ontario regulation 12/21](#) made under the *Provincial Offences Act*
Amending Reg. 950 of R.R.O. 1990 Filed: January 13, 2021
PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED BY CERTIFICATE OF OFFENCE – offences under an EMCPA order

[Ontario regulation 13/21](#) made under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*

O. Reg. 13/21 RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS Filed: January 13, 2021

The Ontario government has issued an [emergency order](#) through the above regulation to temporarily pause the enforcement of residential evictions to make sure that people are not forced to leave their homes during this provincial declaration of emergency and while the stay-at-home-order is in force.

A full list of emergency orders under the EMPCA as well as orders under the ROA can

be found on the [e-Laws website](#).

Ontario Gas Tax for Transit Allocations Announced

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney [announced](#) the 2020-21 Ontario Gas Tax funding [allocations](#) to support Ontario municipal transit systems. The Province will provide \$375 million to 109 municipalities as soon as possible in 2021. This funding is in addition to Safe Restart Agreement funding for transit systems and other supports.

The Ontario Gas Tax provides 2 cents/litre of fuel from provincial revenue to fund municipal transit capital and operations across the province. Funding from the Ontario Gas Tax is critical to supporting municipal transit systems in Ontario, especially as they work to adapt to challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

See AMO's [background information](#) on the evolution of the Ontario Gas Tax, Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), and other critical infrastructure programs for more details on the importance of the suite of provincial supports to municipal governments.

Update on *Ontario Heritage Act* Amendments

A proposed regulation under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the legislative amendments made through the *More Homes, More Choice Act*, 2019, were due to come into force on January 1, 2021.

In response to municipal requests, due to ongoing pandemic considerations which have limited the ability to prepare to implement these changes, the proclamation of the amendments and the regulation **have been delayed**. No new proclamation date has been announced.

The Ministry will be posting drafts of the updated Ontario Heritage Tool Kit guide for public consultation at a later date and will communicate further on a proposed proclamation date. Should you have questions the Ministry recommends you contact your regular Ministry contacts or send an email to heritage@ontario.ca and the appropriate staff person will respond.

Firefighter Training Changes

Yesterday, the Province [announced](#) it is expanding firefighter training opportunities across the province, and modernizing the program to bring fire training closer to home. The Ontario Fire College, which has not hosted on-site training since the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, will be decommissioned and replaced with 20 regional training centres to deliver on-site and online fire safety training in communities where firefighters serve. The Office of the Fire Marshal is also investing in two mobile units that will bring live fire training to local fire services.

The shift to local training opportunities is expected to increase capacity for training and reduce the need for municipal fire departments to pay for travel and costs related to overtime and shift backfills.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

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From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Jennifer Willoughby](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update – New COVID-19 Provincial Emergency Declared, Updated COVID Modelling, CA Working Group
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:59:21 PM

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AMO Policy Update



January 12, 2021

AMO Policy Update – New COVID-19 Provincial Emergency Declared, Updated COVID Modelling, and CA Working Group

Second Provincial Emergency Declared to Address the 2nd COVID-19 Wave

Ontario Premier Doug Ford followed the release of new modeling projections (see below) this morning with the declaration of a second provincial emergency for Ontario under s 7.0.1 (1) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMPCA) that will be effective immediately.

This declaration means that the government will now make orders under the EMCPA. This action comes as a measure to help curb the rising COVID-19 cases and deaths across the Province by targeting the reduction in the levels of mobility.

Highlights from [today's announcement](#) include:

- **As of Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., a stay-at-home order comes into effect** requiring everyone in Ontario to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes (i.e., trips to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care, for exercise, or essential work).
- **Individuals are now required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open.** Additionally, a mask is now recommended outdoors when physical distancing of two metres is not possible.
- **New enforcement measures are set to allow Provincial offences officers, including Police, Municipal Bylaw officers, and First Nations Constables to issue tickets** to individuals, employees, or corporations who do not comply with

the stay-at-home order. Additionally, all enforcement personnel now have the authority to close a premise or disperse individuals in contravention of an order.

- **The Province has updated the essential business list** with a few additional closures, but it remains largely unchanged due to already being in a lockdown setting. This means status quo for municipal construction projects that will continue to remain on the essential business list. For more information, call the ["Stop the Spread" business information line](#).
- **The Small Business Support Grant will be accepting applications in the coming days** for small businesses who are impacted by the lockdown and meet the criteria to receive this support.
- The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is launching the "Stay Safe All Day" campaign that focuses workplace inspections in areas of high transmission (i.e., lunch or break rooms).

An emergency declaration pursuant to s. 7.0.1 under *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMPCA) is terminated 14 days after being made and may be extended for up to a further 14 days by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Thereafter, extensions require approval of the Legislature for additional periods of up to 28 days.

The orders currently in force under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act*, 2020 (ROA) remain in effect until January 20, 2021. Under the ROA, orders can be extended for up to 30 days at a time, and the government must continue to report on all order extensions to the Select Committee on Emergency Management Oversight.

A full list of emergency orders under the EMPCA as well as orders under the ROA can be found on the [e-Laws website](#).

Ontario is now in a second provincial emergency due to COVID-19 with a series of orders coming into effect over the next two days. AMO will provide regular updates as more orders of a municipal interest come forward under the EMCPA.

COVID-19 Science Advisory Table Update

The [COVID-19 Science Advisory Table](#) updated their modelling given trends with recent population data. Today's [presentation](#) provides compelling data on the people and health care system impacts if these trends continue unchecked.

Their Key Findings include:

- Growth in COVID-19 cases has accelerated and is over 7% on the worst days.
- Over the last 4 weeks, there has been a:
 - 72.2% increase in COVID hospitalizations
 - 61.2% increase in COVID ICU patients.
- Almost 40% of long-term care homes have active COVID-19 outbreaks. Since January 1st, 198 LTC residents and 2 LTC staff have died of COVID-19. Forecasts suggest more deaths in wave 2 in long-term care than in wave 1.

- COVID-19 ICU occupancy is now over 400 beds. Surgeries are being cancelled and the access to care deficit will continue to increase with real consequences for health.
- Mobility and contacts between people have not decreased with the current restrictions. Survey data show that the majority of Ontarians are helping limit spread by following them. However, case numbers will not decline until more of the population follows their example.
- A new variant of concern of SARS-CoV-2 (B117) (UK variant) could drive much higher case counts, ICU occupancy and mortality if community transmission occurs. The doubling time for cases could drop by more than 2/3. This new variant is now in Ontario.
- Without significant reductions in contacts, the health system will be overwhelmed, and mortality will exceed the first wave totals before a vaccine has time to take effect.

Conservation Authorities Working Group

The Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has established a multi-stakeholder Working Group to consider proposed regulations impacting conservation authorities and municipalities. Early work will focus on the mandatory programs and services to be delivered by conservation authorities and the MOUs between CAs and municipal governments for non-mandatory programs and services paid for by municipalities.

MECP has posted details of the [Working Group's](#) tasks and membership. AMO will be represented on this working group by Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

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From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Jennifer Willoughby](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update – New Lock Down Measures and New CSWB Plan Deadline
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:41:39 PM

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AMO Policy Update



January 7, 2021

AMO Policy Update – New Lock Down Measures and New CSWB Plan Deadline

New Lock down measures, elementary school closure extension and emergency child care extension

As COVID-19 cases are currently increasing throughout the province, the Ontario government is [extending](#) certain public health measures for the safety of students, education staff, and residents of Northern Ontario. This includes extending the shutdown in Northern Ontario for another 14 days, aligning with the shutdown period in Southern Ontario until at least January 23, 2021.

In response to increasing community transmission, in-person learning will be deferred to January 25, 2021 in Southern Ontario, which aligns with the planned return of in-person learning for secondary school students in these regions. Elementary students and secondary students in the seven Northern Ontario public health unit regions will proceed with returning to in-person learning on January 11, 2021. This new timing in Northern Ontario is also trying to be responsive to the fact that Northern Ontario students are not able to learn at home as effectively due to limited access to reliable Internet service.

Since Ontario was moved into a [Provincewide Shutdown](#) on December 26th, trends in key public health indicators have continued to worsen in both Northern and Southern Ontario, including concerning trends in health system capacity. Trends show increasing transmission in many Northern Ontario public health regions, with only one region showing a sustained low level of transmission.

To support families during this extended school closure, child care centres, and home-based child care services will remain open. Ontario is also expanding eligibility for the Ministry of Education's targeted emergency child care program for a broader number

of frontline health and safety workers.

The impacts of these time-limited measures throughout the province will be evaluated after 14 days to determine if it is safe to lift any restrictions or if they need to be extended.

New Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB) Deadline

In April 2020, the Solicitor General delayed the January 1st, 2021 deadline for the completion and adoption of Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plans. This delay acknowledged the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic was placing on municipal governments and restricting their ability to complete these plans by year end.

On December 24th, 2020, the Ministry of the Solicitor General announced a new July 1st, 2021 deadline date for municipal governments to have their CSWB plans adopted. This six-month extension is appreciated but we understand will continue to prove challenging for many municipal governments across Ontario.

AMO has long been concerned that CSWB plans are an unfunded mandate placed on municipal governments including many with limited staffing resources. With managing an aggressive second wave of the pandemic, municipal governments will find it challenging to conduct and coordinate effective community engagement, including required strong participation from local health and education agencies, that is necessary to produce meaningful plans by the middle of 2021.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

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